

11/09/99

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PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	GOTEP025US
First Inventor or Application Identifier	ANDERSSON
Title	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ALIGNMENT
Express Mail Label No.	EL362857825US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

1. ☒ * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages **9**]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets **2**]
4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages **1**]
 - a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - i. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.29).

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5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
8. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement of Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)
9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 [Copies of IDS Citations]
11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
13. ☒ * Small Entity Statement(s) filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired (PTO/SB/09-12)
14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
15. ☐ Other: _____

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment
- ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No. _____

Prior application information. Examiner _____

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For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

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FREIP026US

TRANSMITTAL FORM

U.S. Application No. : To be assigned
Application of: : Andersson
Filing Date : November 9, 1999
Title: : Device And Method For Alignment
Attorney Docket No. : GOTEP025US

Enclosures:

- Utility Patent application Transmittal (PTO/SB/05)
- Fee Transmittal (PTO/SB/17)
- Check No. 005569 for \$395.00
- Specification - 9 Pages
- Drawings - 2 Pages
- Small Entity Form

Date: November 9, 1999

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Date of Deposit November 9, 1999. I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

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Susan Howard

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STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

Docket Number (Optional)

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: _____
 Application or Patent No.: _____
 Filed or Issued: _____
 Title: **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ALIGNMENT.**

I hereby state that I am
☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below.
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below.

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN **DAMALINI AB**

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN **Åbäcksgatan 6 B, 431 67 MÖLNDAL, Sweden**

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- ☐ the application identified above.
- ☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

- Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:
- ☐ no such person, concern, or organization exists.
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NAME OF PERSON SIGNING **Nils Andersson**
 TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER **Managing Director**
 ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING **Svensavägen 8401 43498 Kungälv, Sweden**
 SIGNATURE **Nils Andersson** DATE **1999-09-20**

Title:

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ALIGNMENT

5 Technical field of the invention

The present invention relates to a device for alignment of at least one alignable plane with respect to at least one reference plane.

- 10 The invention also refers to a system and a method for alignment of at least one alignable plane with respect to at least one reference plane.

Background of the invention

- 15 Usually, at power transmission between rotary shafts, for example via belt or sheave, it is required that the driving and the driven wheels are mutually, at least plane-parallel and adjusted axially in line with each other. This is mainly to prevent abnormal wear of the belts or chains arranged in the power transmission.
- 20 Presently, string and straight edges are used when aligning sheave/gear wheels. The string and straight edge is manually provided on the axial plane of one of the wheels. The string and straight edge is then held in such a direction that its distance to the axial plane of the other wheel can be estimated. This gives however only an estimation of the mutual position and the point of the wheels in one direction, whereby the string and straight edge is turned to a new
- 25 position on the other wheel and a new estimation of the distance between ruler and wheel can be obtained. This distance is compared to the first one in order to obtain an estimation of the mutual position and the direction of the wheel in the other direction. This method, which prevents a simultaneous alignment of the wheels by one operator and the fact that the string and straight edge must be of such a length that it fits the periphery of both wheels makes the
- 30 alignment to become time consuming and inaccurate.

Moreover, alignment with a string and straight edge is normally done by two mechanics.

The object of the invention and the most important characteristics

5 The object of present invention is to provide a simple and cost-effective device which allows simple and quick adjustment and alignment of at least two essentially plane surfaces. The substantially visible light beam used for the alignment shows the parallel and angular misalignment directly.

10 A further object of the invention is to provide a device mainly intended for adjustments of sheaves/gear wheels in power transmission systems having rotary shafts, preferably through optical measurement, in industrial environment and a corresponding measurement method.

15 Through the teachings of the invention, the alignment results in reduced vibration, extended life of belt and sheaves, proper belts tensioning and also eliminated downtime and production delays.

Above mentioned objects are achieved by means of the initially mentioned device, comprising a main part, a light source and a number of contact points, and that the light source is arranged to emit a light beam with a scattering angle in one plane.

20 Advantageously the contact points are displaceable and also arranged as attachment devices.

In one preferred embodiment the light beam has a scattering plane essentially parallel to the alignable plane.

25 In one most preferred embodiment the device comprises an arm. The arm and the main part are rotatable relative each other. Furthermore, the arm is provided with at least one contact point. Preferably, the contact points are arranged displaceable relative each other and/or relative the device. The contact points are arranged to take optional positions in a plane, area of which is only limited by the physical dimensions of the device, that these contact points
30 independently of position, allow the device to transfer the position and direction from the reference plane in two opposite each other essentially perpendicular coordinates.

The system according to the invention comprises a device consisting of a main part, a light source and a number of contact points. The light source is arranged to emit a light beam with a scattering angle in one plane. The system also includes an indicator device to be arranged on the alignable plane.

5

Suitably, said light beam has a scattering plane essentially parallel to the alignable plane. Preferably, the indicator device consists of a part for attachment and a body provided with a measurement mark. According to the system alignment is achieved when the light beam essentially coincides with the measurement mark. Preferably, at least three indicator devices

10 are arranged on said plane. In one embodiment, the indicator device is part of said plane.

According to a method of the invention for alignment of at least one alignable plane with respect to at least one reference plane so that said planes become essentially plane-parallel, a device is arranged consisting of a main part, a light source and a number of contact points, a

15 light beam is emitted with a scattering angle in one plane, an indicator device is arranged on the alignable plane within the area of the light beam provided with measurement mark, and with respect to the measuring mark adjust the alignable plane is adjusted so that the mark coincides with the intersectional line between the light beam and the indicator device.

20 **Brief description of the drawings**

In the following, the invention will be described in greater detail with reference to a non-limiting embodiment shown in attached drawings, in which:

25 Fig. 1 is a schematic lateral view of an alignment device, according to the invention,

Fig. 2 shows a schematic view in perspective of an application using the device shown in Fig. 1, and

30 Fig. 3 shows the encircled section of Fig. 2 in greater detail.

Detailed description of the invention

A preferred embodiment of an alignment device, according to the invention is shown in Fig. 1. The device 10 comprises a main part 11 and an arm 12. The main part 11 and the arm 12 are rotatably arranged relative each other around an axis 13.

5 The main part is essentially designed with a first end 14 and a second end 15 connected to each other via a neck 16, which also form an accommodation space 17. The main part 11 further comprises a light source 18 and a possible driving unit 19, optical elements and source of energy (not shown) arranged in a space in the first end 14. The second end is arranged with a journal 13, which pivotally connects the main part 11 to the arm 12. In the neck section 16
10 the main part is provided with a recess 20, which in this embodiment carries two attachment devices 21a and 21b displaceable relative to the main part. The space 17 is provided to receive the arm 12 when it is rotated therein, which for instance facilitates the handling and the storage of the device.

15 The arm 12 is also provided with a recess 22 in the direction of its longitudinal axis, which also carries an attachment device 21c displaceable in the recess 22.

Preferably, the attachment devices 21a, 21b and 21c consist of magnets in one end, which can be fixed in the recess by means of a locking device (not shown) for example a nut or the like
20 in a known way. Other additional attachment devices, for example different types of fastening means, suction cups, means for adhesion etc. may also be used. It is also possible to provide separate attachment means and contact points.

Preferably, the light source 18 consists of a laser emitting device, for example a laser diode,
25 but other light sources may also be used. By means of for example optical elements (not shown) the light beam from the light source can be scattered, preferably essentially parallel to that/those planes that must be aligned. The driving unit can also be controlled by means of a switch arranged in the main part (not shown).

30 An application for alignment and adjustment of two sheaves 23 and 24 is shown in Fig. 2. A light beam 25 is emitted from the light source 18. This light beam 25 is formed with a relatively large scattering angle in one direction and a very small scattering angle in remaining

directions and creates along its extension a plane of light (essentially parallel to the plane of the wheels).

The device 10 through the arm 12 is fastened on a reference part which normally consists of one 24 of the two sheaves, for example in a belt transmission. The device is fastened by means of the three attachment devices (or contact points) 21a, 21b and 21c provided with magnets, which take optional positions and are distributed in as great mutual distance as possible and bear on the surface situated close to the periphery of the reference 24. This distributing is enabled through the recesses 20 and 22 and also through the mutual articulated features of the arm 12 and the main part 11 around the axis 13. The plane that the attachment devices form, is limited only by the area of the physical dimensions of the device. These contact points independent of position, allow the device 10 to transfer from the reference plane the position and direction in two to each other essentially perpendicular coordinates.

The function of the magnets is now partly to fasten the device onto the reference plane and partly to transfer the position and direction of the reference plane to the light beam 25.

On the other sheave 23 a number of indicator devices 26 are arranged. According to the present, preferred embodiment three indicator devices 26a, 26b and 26c are provided. Each indicator device, of which one is shown in greater detail in Fig. 3, includes an attachment device 27, a body and a reference mark 29 arranged on the body. The attachment device 27 may consist of a magnet or the like. The distance between the mark 29 and the end fixed to the object to be measured of the indicator device preferably corresponds to the distance between the scattering plane of the light beam and the end of the attachment device, which contacts the reference plane.

When aligning, the light beam 25 is brought to encounter the indicator devices 26a, 26b and 26c placed on the measured object 23, i.e. the other of the two sheaves in the belt transmission. Because of the essentially great scattering angle of the light beam and the distance to the object to be measured a simultaneous strike of all the indicator devices is enabled. Each mark 29 on each indicator device has a fixed distance from the measuring object 10 and when it is adjusted so that the light beam 25 essentially encounters the centre of

these marks 29, the measured object 23 is plane-parallel to and in line with the reference 24. The non plane-parallelism of measured object 23 results in a distance l between the mark 29 and the point of impact of the light beam (Fig. 3) on each individual indicator device. Plane-parallelism exists when $l = 0$ (or $l = 0$) at each indicator device and the intersectional line of the light beam essentially coincide with the mark 29.

In one embodiment the indicator devices may consist of sensors, which are able to sense the light beam. Preferably the adjustment of the object to be measured can be done automatically so that it is placed plane-parallel with the reference object. Suitably, this can be achieved continuously. In one embodiment a part of the object to be measured may be provided with a reference mark, which is used instead of the indicator devices.

By adjusting the object to be measured 23, advantageously both in axial and radial directions, plane-parallelism is achieved between the sheaves.

While we have illustrated and described a preferred embodiment, according to the invention, it is realized that variations and modifications within the scope of the attached claims may exist. The invention may advantageously be used in all applications where two objects must be aligned plane-parallel or essentially plane-parallel. These objects may also comprise of, for example walls, tabletops, glass, ceilings etc. The design of the device may also be varied by arranging it with three or more arms, or a fixed body provided with a number of recesses in different directions carrying displaceable attachment devices.

Furthermore, the reference marks of the indicator devices may be arranged in the longitudinal direction of the body, whereby plane-parallelism is achieved when an essentially right-angled cross with respect to the intersectional line of the light beam is obtained. Even the light beam may be emitted in the longitudinal direction of the indicator device whereby the reference mark may be arranged along its longitudinal direction or opposite its longitudinal direction.

What we claim is:

1. A device for alignment of at least one alignable plane with reference to at least one reference plane, wherein said device comprises a main part, a light source and a number of contact points, said light source being provided to emit a light beam with a scattering angle in one plane.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein said contact points are displaceable.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein said contact points are arranged as attachment devices.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein said light beam has a scattering plane essentially parallel to plane of said alignable plane.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein is comprises an arm, rotatably arranged relative said main part.
6. The device of claim 5, wherein said arm is provided with at least one contact point.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein said contact points are arranged displaceable relative each other and/or relative the device.
8. The device of claim 1, wherein said contact points are arranged to take optional positions in a plane, limited only by an area of physical dimensions of the device, the contact points independent of position, allowing the device to transfer a position and direction from the reference plane in two relative each other essentially perpendicular coordinates.
9. The device of claim 1, wherein said reference plane and alignable plane are one or several of sheaves, wheels or walls.
10. A system for alignment of at least one alignable plane with reference to at least one reference plane, wherein the system comprises:

- a device consisting of a main part, a light source and a number of contact points, which light source is arranged to emit a light beam with a scattering angle in one plane, and
- indicator devices to be arranged on said alignable plane.

5

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the said light beam from the light source has a scattering plane essentially parallel to the alignable plane.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the indicator device comprises a part for attachment and
10 a body provided with a measurement mark.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein an alignment achieved when the light beam essentially coincides with the measurement mark.

15 14. The system of claim 10, comprising at least three indicator devices.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the indicator device is part of said plane.

16. A method for alignment of at least one alignable plane with reference to at least one
20 reference plane so that said planes become essentially plane-parallel, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

- providing a device comprising a main part, a light source and a number of contact points,
- emitting a light beam with a scattering angle in one plane,
- 25 - arranging on said alignable plane within an area of the light beam indicator devices provided with measurement marks, and
- adjusting said alignable plane with regard to said measurement marks so that each mark coincides with an intersectional line between the light beam and the indicator device.

30

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ABSTRACT

The present invention refers to a system and a device (10) for alignment of at least one alignable plane with reference to at least one reference plane. The device includes a main part
5 (11), a light source (18) and a number of contact points (21a, 21b, 21c), and the light source (18) is provided to emit a light beam (25) with a scattering angle in one plane.

(Fig.2)

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FIG. 1

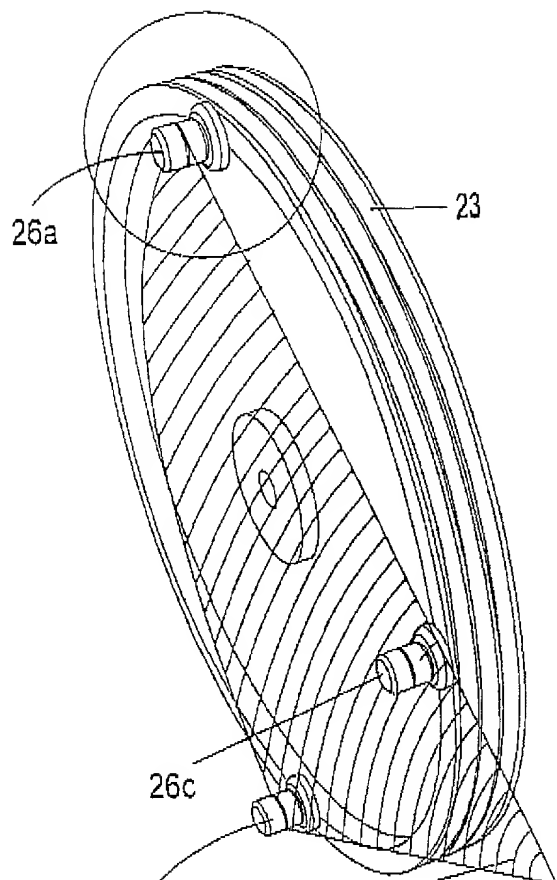


Fig. 2

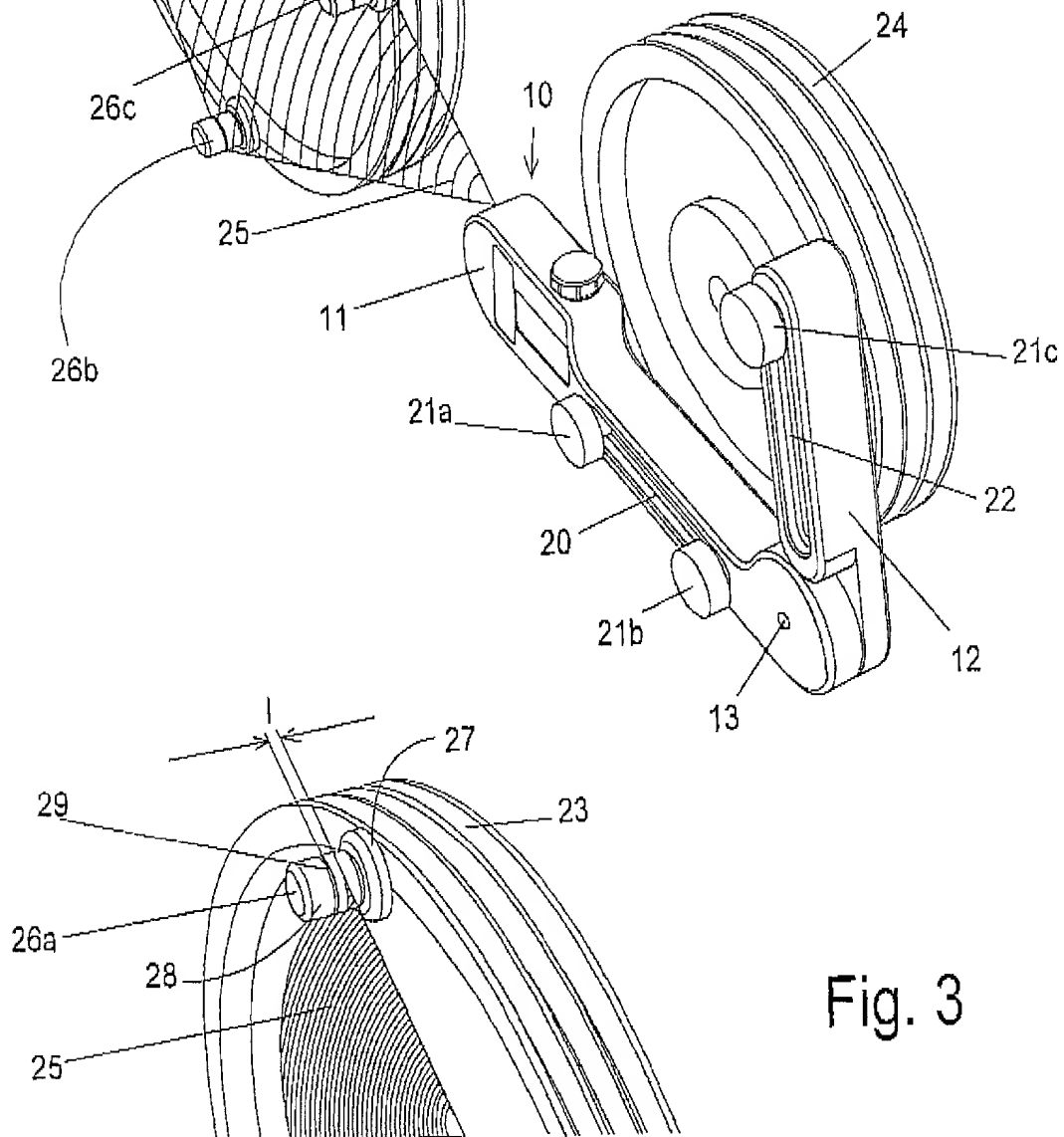


Fig. 3